

of \$400. This legislation allows for a comprehensive, three pronged approach of prevention, treatment and reintegration which involves: increasing access to prenatal care, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, and voluntary family planning; building local capacity and improving national health systems; addressing underlying social and economic inequities, reducing the incidence of child marriage, and increasing access to education; and supporting reintegration and training programs to help women who have undergone treatment return to full and productive lives. These essential investments create a multiplier effect of benefits for women and their communities.

It is also imperative that Congress supports ongoing efforts in the fight to end fistula. Organizations such as UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund) and USAID are working with partners in a global campaign to prevent and treat fistula with the goal of making the condition rare in areas of the developing world, such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The legislation also supports coordination through the International Obstetric Fistula Working Group. Support for monitoring, evaluation, and research to measure the impacts of such programs throughout their planning and implementation phases will ensure the most efficient and effective allocation of U.S. foreign assistance dollars.

We are already well aware that promoting women's health is fundamental to ensuring the health of their children and families. With this bill, we can give women around the world hope for a healthy future. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope, and Dignity Restoration Act.

#### RECOGNIZING MAYOR BETSY PATERSON UPON HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2015*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mansfield, Connecticut's 16-year mayor, Betsy Paterson upon her retirement. For nearly two decades, Betsy has provided rock-solid leadership for her town and her community, serving the residents of Mansfield with her know-how and forward-thinking initiatives.

Starting in 2007, Betsy led her town through a landmark reinvestment campaign. Working with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership to secure millions in state and federal funding. Betsy and the town embarked on an historic downtown improvement project that delivered to Mansfield residents and to the flagship University of Connecticut located in Storrs, additional open space, economic development and improved transportation. Betsy's leadership leveraged federal infrastructure investment with outstanding private sector development to leave a long-lasting impact on the town's business development and livability and a huge enhancement to UConn's ability to draw the "best and brightest" to its mission. Today, Storrs Center serves as an important transportation and economic hub that fuels a lively community and reflects Betsy's vision and determination.

In addition to her Mayoral duties, Betsy has served on the board of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, as a member of the Presidential Search Committee at the University of Connecticut, and on the Mansfield Democratic Town Committee and the Mansfield Historical Society.

Betsy has been a terrific friend and colleague during her time as Mayor. Although her leadership will be missed in the Mayor's office, I am confident that her deep involvement in the future of Mansfield will not end with her retirement. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Betsy for her lifetime of service to Mansfield and eastern Connecticut.

#### REMARKS AT AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION'S OCULUS AWARD CEREMONY

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 1, 2015*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I had the honor of addressing the American Architectural Foundation's Oculus award ceremony to celebrate leadership in cultural heritage and highlight organizations whose preservation initiatives promote vibrant, sustainable communities. This year's Oculus award was presented to Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates for their national leadership in historic preservation.

I want to applaud the work of the American Architectural Foundation (AAF) and its president and CEO Ron Bogle. AAF's efforts to make restoration, preservation and protection of our nation's vulnerable historic buildings, collections, artifacts and works of art a national priority is commendable and it's an agenda I fully support.

Mr. Speaker, I submit my remarks from today's Oculus award.

Good afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Ayers for the kind introduction. I appreciate all that you and your staff are doing to keep Congress working while you are restoring our beautiful Capitol dome. Thank you for your leadership.

I am thrilled to be here today.

The American Architectural Foundation is playing an important role in driving an agenda that places cultural heritage, historic preservation, and architectural restoration at its forefront.

I want to commend the vision and tremendous work of AAF President and CEO Ron Bogle, along with Mr. Thom Minner, Director of AAF's Center for Design and Cultural Heritage. Ron and Thom are working with me to get Congress re-engaged as a partner in protecting and restoring our country's historic treasures, treasures that unite communities and connect the past to the future.

We are here today to honor a company for more than 50 years of accomplishments in historic preservation. Congratulations to Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates on receiving the 2015 Oculus award.

WJE has a long record of contributing to projects across the U.S. and around the world. They have an office in Minnesota, but I was surprised to learn how often we worked at the same places.

In the early 1970s my first full-time job was in downtown St. Paul in the First National Bank building. Later, WJE worked on the First National Bank building. As a Minnesota state legislator, I spent eight years

working in our beautiful Cass Gilbert designed state capitol building. WJE has worked on the capitol. And, one of my proudest accomplishments in Congress has been to help secure the funding for the renovation of St. Paul's historic 1920's era train station—Union Depot. The Depot's \$250 million restoration was completed in 2013 and, again, WJE worked on the project.

Again, congratulations WJE on your tremendous record of success.

At the beginning of this year I became the lead Democrat on the Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee. Each year our subcommittee produces a bill that provides over \$30 billion to fund the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, the Smithsonian museums, and a number of other federal agencies. It is an important portfolio that funds hundreds of millions of acres of federal land, our national parks, tribal nations, and many of America's most important historic sites.

Over the past months my office has been engaged with federal stakeholders and AAF to review the federal government's role in historic preservation. It is absolutely clear that without leadership from Congress and the Obama Administration our nation's most vulnerable treasures are at risk of being lost to time, decay, or neglect. Unfortunately, Congress and the Administration are neglecting our nation's treasures and this political apathy is costing the American people our cultural heritage.

In the 2016 House and Senate Interior-Environment appropriations bills, approximately \$61 million is allocated to the Historic Preservation Fund—primarily to support historic preservation offices in states, territories and tribal nations. This amount represents less than half of the \$150 million authorized funding level and it is nearly \$20 million less than was spent on historic preservation in 2010.

This abandonment of historic preservation runs counter to the desires of our constituents. States, local communities, non-profits, the foundation community, and the private sector want the federal government to be a real partner. All across our country communities come together and identify endangered historic and cultural assets that uniquely reflect local character and identity. It may be a historic building, a church, an archeological site, or a collection representing a moment in a community's history that exemplifies a unique piece of our American history. And, communities are asking for help—both technical and financial—because they want their valued asset to be preserved, protected, and restored for the next generation.

From 1999 to 2010 help was available. During those years, Congress provided modest, but critical funding for a program called Save America's Treasures. \$318 million in federal funding was appropriated for SAT grants over twelve years—that is less than \$1 per American for a decade of investments. Those grants required a dollar-for-dollar match which leveraged over \$400 million in additional funds.

But, since 2011, Congress has not provided a single dollar to Save America's Treasures.

During SAT's twelve years, more than 1,200 grants were awarded to restore 327 historic properties; 247 projects to restore collections, artifacts, artistic works, and documents were funded; and, 341 National Historic Landmarks were preserved.

The treasures saved include: the restoration of Rosa Parks' bus; restoring Little Rock's Central High School; saving Ansel